(b) whether as per State Government order the above doctors are entitled for promotion and selection grade, as available to medical officers in Ayurveda and Unani;

(c) whether the above doctors have been given benefits of promotion and selection grade; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when they would be provided all benefits as per rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Promotion of Medical Officer-III in UP

3532. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per orders of Government of U.P. Medical Officer-III in the grade of Rs. 8000-13500 are entitled for promotion in the scale of Rs. 10000-15300 and Rs. 12000-16500 after 8 and 14 years of service respectively;

(b) whether the above benefit has been denied to some senior doctors while their juniors have already been given the above benefit;

(c) if so, the reasons for denying promotion to some senior doctors; and

(d) by when they would get their due promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, such information is not maintained by this Ministry.

Use of emergency contraceptive

3533. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are shortly introducing an emergency contraceptive in urban areas after proper training of doctors and health workers;

(b) whether the emergency contraceptive is a new device of family planning;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) whether this contraceptive will be introduced in rural areas also; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The Government of India has decided to introduce Emergency Contraceptive Pills under the National Family Welfare Programme. The Drug Controller General of India has approved levonorgestrel tablets (0.75 mg.) as an emergency contraceptive. The first tablet is required to be taken within 72 hours of unprotected sexual act, followed by a second tablet to be taken twelve hours later.

Emergency Contraception is not a concept for planning a family. It refers to a modality that is used as an emergency procedure that will succeed in preventing unwanted pregnancy after any unprotected, possibly fertile sexual act. In this case, this modality is an oral contraceptive pill confirming to the above specifications. Emergency contraception does not prevent pregnancy once implantation has taken place and it cannot be used as a regular contraceptive.

If used in the event of an unplanned / unwanted pregnancy, it will bring about reductions in the incidence of unsafe abortions implemented by unqualified personnel under conditions which are not hygienic.

Increase in AIDS patients

3534. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of AIDS patients are increasing in the country;

(b) the number of AIDS patients so far, detected as on 31st March in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, State-wise;

(c) whether Government would introduce random HIV test for long-distance and inter-State drivers; and

(d) whether Government will consider making blood test compulsory before marriage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement indicating the number of AIDS cases reported to NACO is annexed (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.